Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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O 281930Z APR 76 ZFF-4 FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 805

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ALSO ONE OF THE "FOUR COMMUNES" WHICH ALREADY N THE 19TH CENTURY WAS HELPING ELECT DEPUTIES TO THE FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. LIKE ZANZIBAR OFF THE EAST COAST OF AFRICA, GOREE WAS IMPORTANT IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH AFRICA. IT WAS ON GOREE IN 1883 THAT THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHED ITS FIRST CONSULATE IN WEST AFRICA.

LOCATED ALONG GOREE'S QUIET, WINDING STREETS (THERE ARE NO AUTOMOBILES ON THE ISLAND) ARE A MARITIME MUSEUM AND AN HISTORICAL MUSEUM MAINTAINED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTE OF BLACK AFRICA (IFAN), AS WELL AS RESTAURANTS, BEACHES, MOSQUES AND CHURCHES SERVING LOCAL RSIDNT AND VISITORS WHO CROSS FROM DAKAR VIA A REGULAR FERRY SERVICE. AMONG RECENT VIP VISITORS TO GOREE WAS EMPRESS FARAH DIBA, SHABANOU OF IRAN. A NUMBER OF VENERABLE GOREE TOWNHOUSES HAVE BEEN RESOTRED AND SERVE AS HOMES (OR SECOND RESIDENCES) FOR DAKAR RESIDENTS. AMONG GOREE'S RESIDENTS IS THE HONORABLE DONALD DUMONT, FORMER US AMBASSADOR TO BURUNDI, WHO SERVED AS VICE CONSUL IN DAKAR DURING WORLD WAR TWO AND AGAIN FROM 1958 TO 1960, THE YEAR HE PRESENTED THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF RECOGNITION OF THE FEDERATION OF MALI (WHICH INCLUDED SENEGAL).

3. IFAN ("INSTITUT FONDAMENTAL D'AFRIQUE NOIRE" - FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTE OF BLACK AFRICA) MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART, PLACE TASCHER, DAKAR:

IFAN WAS FOUNDED BY THE FRENCH IN 1938 AS A RESEARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTITUTE. ITS ACTIVITIES COVERED ALL OF FRENCH WEST AFRICA AND ITS HEADQUARTERS (NOW AT UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR) WERE IN THE PRESENT M SEUM BUILDING. IFAN HAS FOSTERED RESEARCH IN ZOOLOGY, BOTANY, MARINE BIOLIGY, PRE-HISTORY, ANTHROPOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, SOCIOLOGY, LINGUISTICS, HISTORY AND RELIGION. IT HAS SEVERAL RESEARCH SECTIONS AND PUBLISHES NUMEROUS SCIENTIFIC MONOGRAPHS AS WELL AS ITS OWN BULLETIN. IT IS A CENTER FOR RADIO CARBON DATING IN WEST AFRICA; IFAN IS ALSO THE PUBLISHER WITH AMERICAN HELP OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATLAS OF WEST AFRICA.

WHILE SURPASSED BY COLLECTIONS OF AFRICAN ART IN EUROPE AND AMERICA, HAS AN EXTENSIVE COLLECTION OF SENEGALESE AND WWEST AFRICAN ETHNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL INCLUDING SOME EXCELLENT WEST AFRICAN SCULPTURE. AS A REFLECTION OF CHANGING TIMES, IFAN HAS RETAINED ITS ORIGINAL ACRONYM WHILE CHANGING THE TITLE FOR WHICH IT STANDS: THE FRENCH INSTITUTE FOR BLACK AFRICA BECAME THE FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTE FOR BLACK AFRICA.

SINCE 1959 IFAN HAS BEEN A PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR UNDER THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION. ITS DIRECTOR IS THE DISTINGUISHED SENEGALESE ARABIST, DR. AMAR SAMB, AGGREY

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